

Tonal Change in Kagoshima Japanese: the case of *Noun + ga* (nominative)

Akiko TAKEMURA (*Kobe University*)

This research presents an ongoing tonal change in Kagoshima dialect of Japanese (KGJ). KGJ is a regional dialect and has a prosodic system that is quite different from that of Tokyo Japanese (TJ) or Kansai Japanese (KJ).

KGJ has four characteristics: (i) a syllabic system, (ii) a two-pattern tonal system, (iii) a compound tone rule, and (iv) a tone rule in prosodic phrase (PrPh). TJ has different features: (i) a moraic system, (ii) an accent pitch system instead of tones, and (iii) an accentual rule. KGJ has a two-pattern tonal system: Tone A and Tone B. The former has a High tone on the *penultimate* syllable, and the latter has a High tone on the *final* syllable. Words are fit into either one of these tones, irrespective of their length. The third and fourth feature of KGJ can be summarized as follows: the two-pattern tonal system is sustained even when a compound word (CW) or a prosodic phrase is formed. A prosodic phrase consists of a content word and one or more functional elements. Therefore, the first member of a CW or the first morpheme of a prosodic phrase determines the tone of the whole unit. Examples of traditional KGJ prosodic phrase tones and CW tones are given in (1). Examples of TJ accent are in parenthesis.

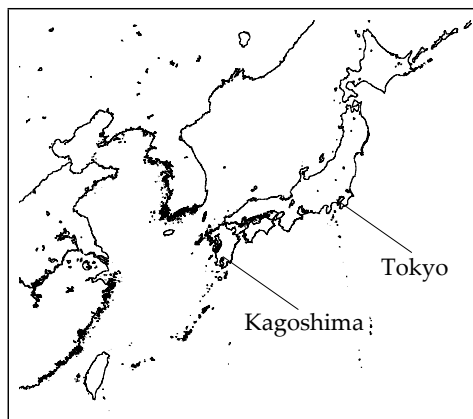


Figure 1: Japan

(1)	Tone A	ta.be. $\overline{m\bar{o}}$.no	(ta. $\overline{b\bar{e}}$.mo.no)	'food'
	PrPh	ta.be.mo. $\overline{n\bar{o}}$ -ga	(ta. $\overline{b\bar{e}}$.mo.no-ga)	'food-NOM'
	CW	ta.be.mo.no. $\overline{m\bar{o}n}$.dai	(ta. $\overline{b\bar{e}}$.mo.no.mon.dai)	'food problem'
	Tone B	no.mi.mo. $\overline{n\bar{o}}$	(no. $\overline{m\bar{i}}$.mo.no)	'beverage'
	PrPh	no.mi.mo.no- $\overline{g\bar{a}}$	(no. $\overline{m\bar{i}}$.mo.no-ga)	'beverage-NOM'
	CW	no.mi.mo.no.mon. $\overline{d\bar{a}i}$	(no. $\overline{m\bar{i}}$.mo.no.mon.dai)	'beverage problem'

It has been reported that there is an ongoing tonal change in the standalone words and CW, but not in prosodic phrase (Kubozono 2006, 2007). Our data shows, however, that the change is also taking place in prosodic phrase. Thus, while High tone is supposed to move to the rightward position as shown in (1), we found that High tone position in initial morpheme does not move at all. Instead, the initial morpheme attaches to next functional element. The error examples are shown in (2) and (3) with TJ patterns in parenthesis.

(2)	Tone A:	ta.be. $\overline{m\bar{o}}$.no	Tone A in PrPh:	(a) ta.be.mo.no- $\overline{g\bar{a}}$	(b) ta.be. $\overline{m\bar{o}}$.no-ga
(3)	Tone B:	no.mi.mo. $\overline{n\bar{o}}$	Tone B in PrPh:	(a) no.mi.mo. $\overline{n\bar{o}}$ -ga	

We suggest that this tonal change is triggered by TJ prosodic phrase because TJ accent position of initial morpheme does not move when functional element is attached to it. Moreover, placing High tone on antepenultimate syllable in KGJ is beyond its prosodic constraint. In this regard, the tonal change in progress observed in KGJ prosodic phrase is a deviational one and quite possibly indicating the influence of TJ.

References

- Kubozono, Haruo (2006) *Akusento no hōsoku* [Rules of Accent]. Tokyo: Iwanami Shoten.
- Kubozono, Haruo (2007) Kagoshima no akusento henka — Fukugō hōsoku no hōkai [Tonal change in Kagoshima — Collapse of compound rule]. *Kobe Papers in Linguistics*, Vol. 5, pp. 111–123.